DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 121 296 IR 003 273

AUTHOR O'Connell, Janet
TITLE The Growth of Regional Cooperation Among Special Libraries in the Southwestern Connecticut Area.
PUB DATE Jun 75
NOTE 12p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Special Libraries Association (Chicago, Illinois, June 8-12, 1975)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS Industry; Libraries; *Library Cooperation; Library Services; Public Libraries; Regional Programs; *Special Libraries; Speeches; Union Catalogs
IDENTIFIERS Connecticut; Multitype Library Cooperation; SLA 75; Southwestern Connecticut Library Group; SWCLG

ABSTRACT

When a corporation moves to the suburbs it often fails to take into consideration that the library facilities in that area are a vital information source for their in-house libraries. Librarians of newly-moved corporations in the Southwestern Connecticut area found only one library available: The Ferguson Library in Stamford. In order to achieve greater unity between the special libraries and to strengthen business and techical literature, the Southwestern Connecticut Library Group (SWCLG) was organized. A microfilm reader-printer and microfilm copies of scientific journals were purchased for the Ferguson Library and made available to all members. The group also conducted workshops to keep members in touch with new developments in the field of librarianship. The most important undertaking by the group was a computer-produced union catalog of periodical holdings. A brochure describing the SWCLC is included. (Author/DS)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED121296

75 ch 13b

IR

THE GROWTH OF REGIONAL COOPERATION AMONG SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AREA

by

Janet O'Connell

American Can Company
Greenwich, Connecticut

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Presented at a Contributed Paper Session
66th Annual Conference, June 8-12, 1975
Special Libraries Association
Chicago, Illinois

IR 003 073

Although major corporations undertake extensive studies of an area's resources and overall suitability before contemplating a corporate move, they often fail to consider the area's library facilities. Libraries, both in-house and public, are not usually a primary concern of management.

From the late Fifties through the early Sixties, when the corporate exodus to the suburbs was just beginning in the Southwestern Connecticut area, librarians of the newly moved corporations found themselves without the extensive library resources they had known in the metropolitan areas left behind. Most of the corporations had moved from New York, and their researchers were use to having, within easy reach, such facilities as the New York Public Library, Conference Board, and American Management Association Library. The broad array of Special Libraries also greatly increased the amount of information readily available in Manhattan.

However, this was not the case in Southern Connecticut, where most towns were bedroom communities and the library facilities were geared to handle the needs of school children and the general public. Among the library facilities available in the region was the Ferguson Library in Stamford, one of the largest libraries in the lower Connecticut area at the time, and one

of sixty-seven percent of the nation's public libraries to have a separately organized Business, Industry, and Science department in 1969. The head of the Ferguson Library during that time, Mary Louise Alexander (President, Special Libraries Association, 1932-34), was particularly sensitive to the needs of the business community. Special cards were issued to give business and industrial firms preferred borrowing privileges, new book lists were prepared, and a telephone reference service was operated. To help fulfill the needs for specialized information sources which a public library could not provide, special librarians were more or less forced toward greater library cooperation.

The first move toward inter-library cooperation was purely on the social level. The October, 1955 issue of the New York Chapter News of the Special Library Association carried the following notice:

> Stamford-Greenwich:
> Anyone interested in luncheon meetings for this area, please call M. E. Public Librarian, Dunlap and Associates, Inc.

A meeting did not take place until seven months later and it was over cocktails, not lunch. Representatives of eleven industrial firms were present. Among them were librarians from American Cyanamid, Remington Rand, ANP, Pitney-Bowes, and R. T. Vanderbilt. Although further meetings produced the realization that a pooling of their resources would be mutually beneficial, it was not until

March 1, 1963, that the library group of Southwestern Connecticut was formally organized.

The main purpose of the S.W.C.L.G., as stated in the by-laws, is to strengthen the business and technical literature resources of the members. A further purpose is to promote the spirit of cooperation among the librarians employed within the community.

The group is divided into five divisions & kinds of membership:

I. Regular Individual Membership - an individual sympathetic to the goals of the group and who resides in the Southwestern Connecticut area, or an individual who is employed in a library or information center in the Southwestern Connecticut area. A regular member is entitled one vote except in the expenditure of funds collected from Corporate members for the Resources Bureau.

II. Special Membership - any public library, technical, recreational or professional school, library, public high school, college or university library, or non-profit hospital library. The privileges are the same as the Regular members.

(xi) Temporary Restraining - an injunction, injunction or preliminary injunction which has a history of intermittent use which the Developer reasonably foresees will be utilized by Temporary Restraining. The Temporary Restraining shall have the same as set forth herein including the Enforcement of Rules from the Association hereof.

(xi) Permanent Restraining - any matter upon the Association.

(xi) By Affirm - any order, approval, or approval requested or agency connected with literary purposes or conveyance of this the Enforcement Association upon any appeal and organizations the Unit set forth literary purchasers, but may increase by ownership, upon Between.

In the case of consideration, the Parties among the members and that it would be more advantageous to such entities and corporations in a specific geographic area. Although the choice of Individual Towns was considered, the major reason was to be in the cases of Hampton, Stratford, New Haven, Norwich, Groton, Bridgeport, Westport and Darien.

During the past four or five years the B.R.I.A. has continued a membership campaign to encompass the entire area of Fairfield.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]